

The symptoms these veterans experience have included, among other things, fatigue, painful muscles and joints, bleeding gums, skin rashes, short-term memory loss, and hair loss. With this legislation, the VA will have the authority to provide to these veterans both inpatient and outpatient care on a priority basis. Thus, we can help make certain that these veterans' health care needs are met as fully as possible while important research into their problems goes forward.

This legislation also provides for reimbursement to these veterans for any copayments they may have made to the VA for care that might have been necessary because of their exposures in the Persian Gulf.

In addition, this legislation extends the VAs authority to:

- furnish Vietnam veterans with care that may be related to their exposure to agent orange;
- furnish veterans who participated in nuclear weapons tests or in the occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki with care that may be related to their exposure to ionizing radiation;
- provide women veterans with sexual trauma counseling; and,
- maintain its regional office in the Philippines.

Over 650,000 service men and women from United States forces valiantly forced Saddam Hussein's armies from Kuwait, and earned the respect and admiration of people around the globe. They also earned our Nation's undying gratitude and support.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
December 20, 1993.

NOTE: H.R. 2535, approved December 20, was assigned Public Law No. 103-210.

### **Statement on Establishment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

*December 20, 1993*

I welcome the decision today by the United Nations General Assembly to establish a High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Since Eleanor Roosevelt first fought for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, the United States has led the way to ensure that the United Nations is a strong force for human dignity and respect for basic civil and political rights. The High Commissioner will be an influential and persuasive advocate for human rights around the world.

The High Commissioner's mandate to promote human rights worldwide will include coordinating human rights activities within the United Nations system, providing advisory services and technical assistance to governments and regional human rights organizations, and engaging in dialog with governments on promotion of human rights.

Today's action achieves one of my key goals for this year's U.N. General Assembly and advances an enduring goal of American foreign policy. The United States will lend its full support to the High Commissioner's efforts to ensure that the citizens of the world are able to live free from repression and fear.

### **Appointment of Assistant to the President for Congressional Affairs**

*December 20, 1993*

The President announced today that he has appointed Pat Griffin to be the Assistant to the President for Congressional Affairs. Mr. Griffin, an experienced professional with experience in academia, government, and the private sector, will begin work at the White House in mid-January.

"I am very glad to have someone of Pat Griffin's skill and experience leading my legislative team here at the White House," said the President. "We have an ambitious agenda on the Hill for the next year, with difficult challenges like health care, crime, and welfare reform to be addressed. I am counting on Pat to work closely with Members on both sides of the aisle to move those issues forward."

NOTE: A biography of the appointee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.